

Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Winchester Hall, Third Floor Meeting Room

12 East Church St., Frederick, MD 21701

In Person Meeting

Attendance

Voting Members	Present	Absent	Excused
Edwina Benites	x		
Paul Hunter			x
Sharon Jacko			x
David Kaye			x
Wilfred Plumley	x		
Fred Schumacher			x
Fred Wood	x		
Non-Voting Members			
Jay Hessler	x		
Nan Mann	x		
Patty McDonald			x
Steve McKay			x

Presenters: Savannah Rhoderick, Frederick Health Hospital

Staff: Brad Petersen and Michaela Browne

Welcome and Introductions

Wilfred Plumley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Mr. Plumley led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Michaela Browne read the Emergency Evacuation Card.

Establishment of a quorum: After a review of attendance, Mr. Plumley determined that a quorum of voting members was not present.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: July agenda could not be approved.

Old Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Approval of June Meeting Minutes deferred.

Could not vote on logo or trifold; deferred to next meeting.

Discussion of logo: Wilfred asked to center stars over soldier's head on logos. Fred Wood stated he likes the blue mountains in the background, for the Blue Ridge Mountains. Jay stated they were all great options.

Discussion of trifold: Fred Wood asked to change wording of priorities to include all the county. Wilfred requested logos and brochures sent out to all members. Jay suggested we match the logos and trifold colors. Council member McKay emailed that he preferred the red logo and suggested changing the color of wording on yellow brochure to red. Wilfred stated that the photo of veteran paints a picture of veterans being down and out, which isn't true, and suggested a more positive depiction.

Chair Comments

- Wilfred requested an executive committee meeting to discuss yearly plan of topics.
- Wilfred announced that the speaker for the Retiree Appreciation Day on September 21 will be Secretary Woods, from the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs. Secretary Woods has a desire to support all military, veterans, retired, and active duty.
- Wilfred asked for updates on vacant seats on the council. Michaela stated that we are still waiting for the VA and the county to appoint members. Brad stated that we need a member from healthcare or medical background, and we will advertise for that. Brad stated that he has been in contact with the VA and with Delegate Pippy and they are aware. Fred Wood asked if there are any vacancies in voting members. Wilfred stated, no, only the non-voting members.

Staff Report

- Michaela stated that she will be working out of VSC one day a week once the MOU is approved by legal.
- Michaela has been updating the website.
- Michaela will collate topic suggestions and set up an executive committee meeting to discuss a yearly plan.
- Michaela stated the CVEB is looking for members and wider participation.
- Michaela attended an in person planning meeting for the Day at Ease event on September 23. The event will take place at the Foxie G Foundation in Union Bridge and will have food, activities, music, and a resource fair. Nan Mann stated that the Day at Ease is a free event and to take back to organizations that they won't charge for tables for resource fair.
- Michaela stated that the bylaw changes cannot change except for recommendation that the chairperson is the MD Open Meetings Act designee. Cannot make these changes because the VAC members, discharge status, and terms are specifically established by County Code sections 1-2-201 through 1-2-203. To change the bylaws, we would first have to change the county code. Wilfred asked why. Brad stated that the bylaws are direct quotes from the county. Wilfred asked how we change the county code. Brad stated we'd have to talk to Council member McKay on how to move forward. Fred Wood asked what the county codes say. Wilfred asked to get someone from county to speak at next meeting.
- Michaela stated this will be our last meeting using the 3rd floor meeting room. This space is being converted into offices. We will be meeting off-site in August at the Brunswick Legion and in September at Veterans Service Center. When we return to Winchester Hall in October, will we be meeting in the first-floor hearing room.

Presentations

Savannah Rhoderick from Frederick Health presented to the council on Frederick County's initiative called "Stroke Smart Frederick." Stroke Smart Frederick and Stroke Smart Maryland seeks to educate children and adults on how to spot the signs of stroke and how to call emergency services to improve treatment and reaction time.

Public Comment

n/a

New Business

n/a

Announcements

Nan and Eddie will not attend in August due to Maryland Association of Counties Conference.

The August VAC Meeting will be held in Brunswick with presentations from the American Legion and Blue Star Families.

The September VAC Meeting will be at the VSC Goodwill Career Center with presentations on jobs.

Fred Wood made a motion to adjourn. Wilfred Plumley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

The next meeting of the VAC will be on **Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:30pm** at American Legion Post 96, 18 S Maple Ave Brunswick, MD 21716.

Submitted by the Frederick County Division of Aging & Independence.

The screenshot shows the Frederick County Government website. The header includes the county logo, navigation links (Government, Departments, Services, Community, Business, How Do I), and a search bar. A large banner image of a stone bridge at sunset is displayed. On the left, a blue sidebar menu lists: Visit Frederick, Bids & RFPs, Emergency Alerts, Jury Information, Organizational Chart, and Donate/Volunteer. The main content area, titled 'Home > Archive Center', features a section for 'Veterans Advisory Council Agendas' with a link to 'All Archives'. Below this, a list of agenda items is shown, each with a red icon and a link: 'VAC Agenda - 08-16-2023', 'VAC Agenda - 08-16-2023', 'VAC Agenda - 07-19-2023', 'VAC Agenda - 06-21-2023', and 'VAC Agenda - 05-17-2023'. The footer includes a search bar, taskbar icons, and system information (USD/JPY +0.66%, 2:15 PM, 8/10/2023).

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Veterans Advisory Council Agendas All Archives

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VAC Agenda - 06-21-2023

VAC Agenda - 05-17-2023

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